

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02  
USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01  
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OPIC-03 DLOS-06  
SAL-01 PRS-01 PA-01 /117 W  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, AORG  
SUBJ: UNCTAD - GENERAL GROUP B, DECEMBER 16

SUMMARY: AT THE LAST MEETING OF GROUP B FOR THE YEAR ON  
DECEMBER 16 THERE WAS A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS  
MADE IN THE IPC DISCUSSIONS (INCLUDING LATEST DISCUSSION  
WITH COMMODITIES DIVISION), OF COORDINATION PLANS FOR  
THE GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS, OF  
THE PROBLEMS OF OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS FOR GROUP B  
PERSONNEL TO SECRETARIAT POSITION, AND ON THE LACK OF  
OBJECTIVITY OF UNCTAD PRESS RELEASES. END SUMMARY.

1. INTEGRATED PROGRAM. GORDON BARRASS (UK), GROUP  
COORDINATOR ON COMMODITIES, REPORTED ON DISCUSSIONS HELD  
WITH CHIEF OF COMMODITIES DIVISION ON THE STATUS OF  
DOCUMENTATION FOR THE SECOND PREPCOM ON THE COMMON FUND.  
THE SECRETARIAT ANTICIPATES ISSUING FOUR OR FIVE PAPERS  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE HAVING MORE  
THAN ONE OR TWO AVAILABLE BEFORE END OF THE YEAR. PAPERS  
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TO BE ISSUED ARE: (A) FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS RESULTING  
FROM PROJECTED BUFFER STOCK OPERATIONS AND OTHER MEASURES;  
(B) PROPOSALS FOR ASSESSMENTS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE  
COMMON FUND; (C) OPERATIONAL MATTERS AND RELATIONS OF THE  
CF TO COMMODITY BODIES, ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCING, ETC.;  
(D) GUARANTEES FOR GOVERNMENT UNDERWRITING LOANS OR  
SUBSCRIPTIONS; AND (E) DECISION MAKING AND MANAGEMENT OF

THE CF.

THE DISCUSSION FOLLOWING BARRASS PRESENTATION BROUGHT OUT FACT THAT VARIOUS UNCTAD COMPUTER RUNS ON OPTIONS FOR FINANCING OF THE COMMON FUND APPARENTLY BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO SELECTED G-77 DELEGATES TO FIND OPTION MOST SUITED FOR THEM. GROUP B WILL MAKE THE POINT STRONGLY WITH SECRETARIAT THAT IT WILL NOT ACCEPT A PAPER WITHOUT A PRESENTATION OF OPTIONS FOR ITS STUDY. BARRASS ALSO IS CONTINUING HIS WORK ON ATTEMPTED DRAFT OF A GROUP B COMMON POSITION ON CF ACCEPTABLE TO ALL, BUT ADMITTED TASK SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE. HE IS WORKING ON "PERSONAL BASIS" ONLY AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, THUS PRESERVING PERSONAL IDENTITY OF PAPER. A GENERAL DISCUSSION ENSUED OF THE STRONG UNHAPPINESS OF THE GROUP B MEMBERS AT THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE G-77 (UNDER THE GUISE OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS) AT THE JUTE AND HARD FIBERS PREPCOMS. THE CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE G-77 TO PERVERT THESE MEETINGS INTO EFFORTS TO REWRITE THE NAIROBI RESOLUTION (93-IV) MAY WELL CONTINUE UNLESS THE GROUP B TAKES STRONG ACTION TO STOP THE G-77. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT PREPCOMS ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES MUST BE IN MEANINGFUL PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE CONTEXT IF THEY ARE NOT TO CONTINUE TO BE A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME. BARRASS NOW PLANNING TO CALL GROUP B MEETING ON OR ABOUT JAN 11 TO DISCUSS FUTURE TACTICS OF THE GROUP IN THE RUBBER CONSULTATIONS AND TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION. THERE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE UNHAPPINESS OF CONDUCT OF PREPCOMS SHOULD BE RAISED AT NEXT MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE.

2. ITC - THE REPORT FOR THE JANUARY JAG OF THE ITC IS OUT. (COPIES HAND CARRIED TO EB AND DOC IN NOVEMBER.) ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO A NEW PROPOSAL FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ITC, I.E., THAT IT SHOULD ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON QUESTIONS OF IMPORTS IN ADDITION TO ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF PROMOTING LDC EXPORTS.

3. PERSONNEL AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS. THERE WAS GENERAL DISMAY THAT THE 5TH COMMITTEE OF THE UNGA HAD OVERRULED THE ACABQ REPORT WHICH THE GENEVA GROUP B DELEGATES FELT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH IN REDUCING THE UNCTAD BUDGETARY REQUESTS. IT WAS DECIDED TO FORM A GROUP B WORKING PARTY ON INSTITUTIONAL/BUDGETARY ISSUES AT THE FIRST MEETING OF GROUP B IN THE NEW YEAR.

THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION PRESENTED AN AIDE MEMOIRE

SEEKING GROUP B'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE CANDIDATURE OF DR. WOLFGANG LOCKER FOR A P-4 POSITION IN THE DIVISION ON TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. DR. LOCKER HAS SERVED ON THE EAST EUROPEAN DESK OF THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL ECONOMIC CHAMBER, AS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE OF AUSTRIA IN WARSAW, AS ASSISTANT TRADE COMMISSIONER IN BELGRADE AND AS EXPERT ON TRADE PROMOTION IN THE ITC. U.S. WAS NON-COMMITAL ON QUESTION OF GROUP B GIVING AN ENDORSEMENT TO DR. LOCKER PENDING REFERRAL TO WASHINGTON, BUT TOOK THE OCCASION TO NOTE THE EXTREME UNHAPPINESS OF U.S. WITH UNCTAD RECRUITING METHODS WHERE PRIME QUALIFICATIONS SEEMED TO BE LDC ORIGINS AND RECORD OF SUPPORT OF G-77 POSITIONS, ALSO NOTING THAT APPOINTMENTS PROCESS SEEMED TO BE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED IN SECRECY WITH THE EXISTENCE OF A VACANCY UNKNOWN UNTIL A CANDIDATE CHOSEN. U.S. COMMENTS TOUCHED OFF GENERAL ROUND OF EXPRESSIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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UNHAPPINESS OF UNCTAD RECRUITMENT POLICIES UNDER WHICH GROUP B CANDIDATES ARE NOT GIVEN THE TIME OF DAY, THE EXISTENCE OF VACANCIES ARE DENIED ONLY TO FIND THAT THEY ARE FULLED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER WITH G-77 CANDIDATES, ETC. IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEW POSITIONS BEING CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE UNGA ACTION, THE GROUP B COORDINATOR UNDERTOOK TO MAKE A STRONG DEMARCHE TO HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THE GROUP'S NAME IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN GREATER OPENNESS IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS.

4. OBJECTIVENESS OF UNCTAD PRESS RELEASES. THE GROUP REVIEWED THE U.S. ACTION OBJECTING TO THE BIASED PRESS RELEASE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE 16TH TDB, CONCURRED IN THE U.S. ACTION, BUT IT FELT THAT IT WAS NOW TOO LATE TO OBTAIN A RETRACTION OF THE OBJECTIONABLE PRESS RELEASE. THE GROUP B COORDINATOR WILL INFORM THE SECRETARIAT OF GROUP'S UNHAPPINESS WITH THE PRESS RELEASE IN QUESTION, PLACE THE SECRETARIAT ON NOTICE THAT THE GROUP WILL MONITOR PRESS RELEASES IN THE FUTURE MORE CAREFULLY TO ASSURE OBJECTIVITY AND WILL CONSIDER ISSUING ITS OWN RELEASES IF THE SECRETARIATS' CONTINUE TO BE AS BIASED AS BEFORE.CATTO

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THERE WAS A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE PROG  
**TAGS:** ETRD, AORG, UNCTAD  
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